

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+

17



SANDHU

AARON
FERREYRA



**NEXT
LEVEL**

MARCH

WRITTEN BY EISNER AWARD WINNER GREG RUCKA • ART BY DaNi

BATWOMAN #1



© & TM DC.

DAUGHTER. SISTER. SOLDIER. HERO.

METROPOLIS.

AAIEEEEE!

**JIMMY!
WHERE ARE
YOU?!**

**WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
OF THE CITY,
RIGHT
NOW!**

**JIMMY,
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?!**

LOIS?



...KILL...
...ME.





NNGH.
SO MANY
SCREAMS. CAN'T
FOCUS.

IT AIN'T
ROCKET
SCIENCE,
KID.
FOCUS ON
THE **GIANT**
MONSTER.



THE INFECTION'S
SPREADING IN **EVERY**
DIRECTION AT ONCE.
LOOKS TO BE GROWING
ROUGHLY FOUR SQUARE
MILES A MINUTE.

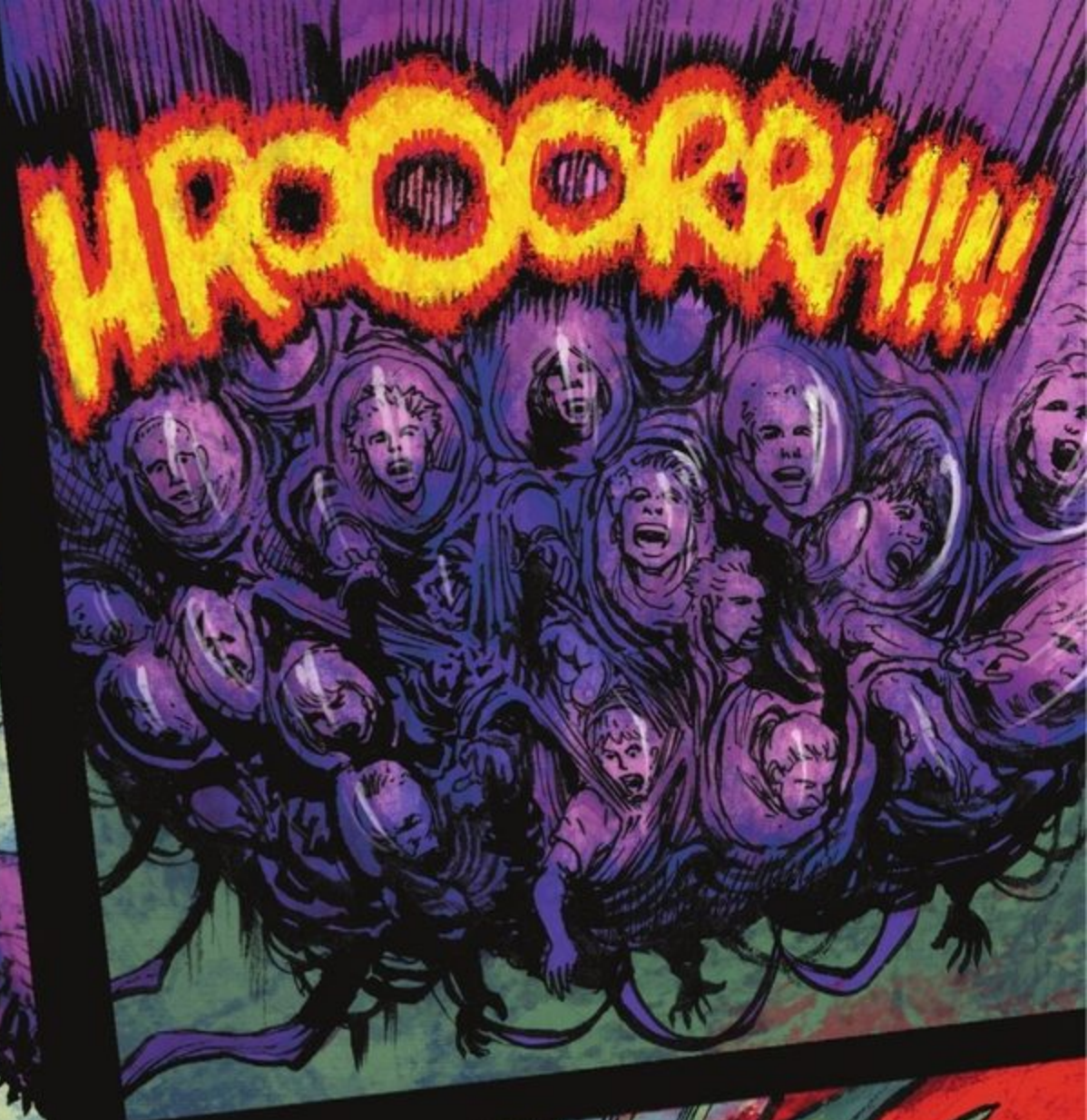
IN LESS THAN
AN HOUR, **EVERY**
LIVING THING IN
METROPOLIS WILL
HAVE BEEN
ABSORBED.

IN LESS THAN
AN HOUR WE'LL
BE DRINKING BEERS
OVER THIS THING'S
BIG, UGLY **CORPSE**.
FOLLOW MY
LEAD.



HAWKMAN,
WAIT--

SALVORTON



STOP! THOSE
PEOPLE AREN'T
DEAD!

THEY
DAMN SURE
WILL BE IF
WE DON'T
KILL THAT
THING!

WE DON'T
EVEN UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S *DOING* TO
THEM! YOU COULD
BE *MURDERING*
THEM ALL!

GET
OUTTA MY
WAY, BOY.
I WON'T
TELL YOU
AGAIN.





OPEN YOUR EYES, KID. THIS **PARASITE** GETS ITS HOOKS INTO PEOPLE, IT DON'T LET GO. WE GOTTA KILL IT WHILE WE CAN.

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CREATURE IS, DON'T YOU? YOU KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM.



I KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU NEED TO SHUT UP AND DO WHAT I SAY!

YOU HEAR HOW **QUIET** IT'S GOTTEN DOWN THERE?! NO MORE SCREAMS!



ALL WE CAN DO IS PUT THESE POOR BASTARDS OUTTA THEIR--



GNNGH!

NO! WE HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY!



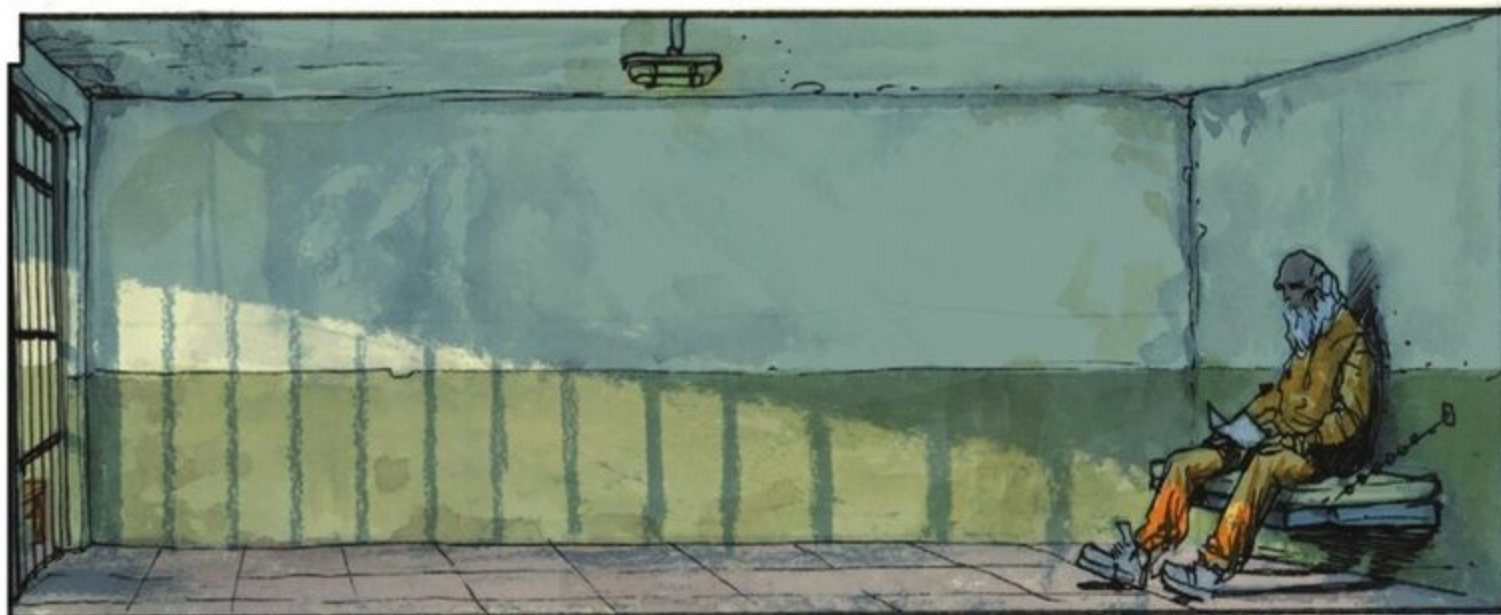
WE...
WAIT...THE SCREAMS. YOU'RE RIGHT.

LOIS...

ORANGI TOWN,
PAKISTAN.



RA'S AL
GHUL.
TIME TO
RISE FROM
THE DEAD.

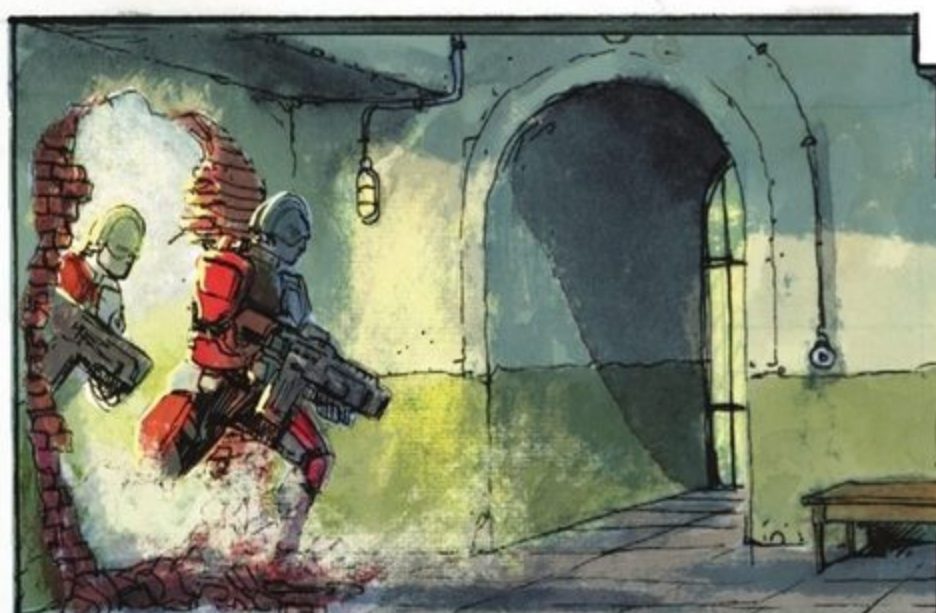


SHINK!!



APOLOGIES
FOR THE DELAY,
FATHER. HAD TO
FIGURE OUT A WAY
TO *DISTRACT* THE
FARM BOY. BUT
IT'S DONE.
LET'S GO.

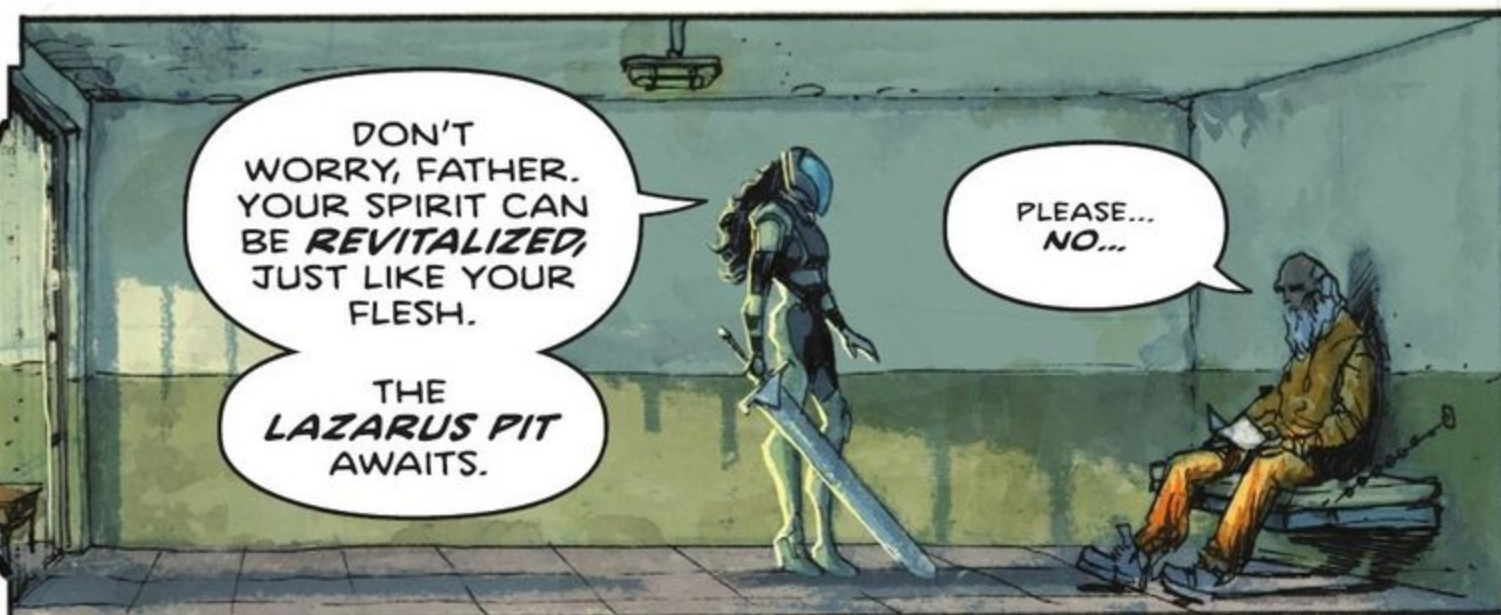
YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME
HERE,
TALIA.



BY THE
OMEGA...DON'T
TELL ME...

THE MIGHTY
DEMON'S HEAD
HAS BEEN *BROKEN*
BY A FEW MONTHS IN
A THIRD-WORLD
JAIL?

CALL IT
WHAT YOU WISH,
DAUGHTER. JUST
LEAVE ME BE.



DON'T
WORRY, FATHER.
YOUR SPIRIT CAN
BE *REVITALIZED*,
JUST LIKE YOUR
FLESH.

THE
LAZARUS PIT
AWAITS.

PLEASE...
NO...

"...JUST LEAVE ME
HERE TO DIE."

HHGG
RRK!

LOIS!

LOIS
LANE!

GG
WRR
H K!

SUPERMAN?

THOSE
PEOPLE MAY
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE SLEEPING,
BUT INSIDE,
I'M TELLING
YOU...

...THEY'RE
TRAPPED IN A
NIGHTMARE.

THE
PARASITE WANTS
YOU AT YOUR MOST
TERRIFIED, YOUR BODY
PUMPING ITSELF FULL OF
ADRENALINE AND
ENDORPHINS.

SO IT
CAN **GUZZLE**
YOUR ENERGY
LIKE A JUG OF
HIGH-OCTANE
GASOLINE.





YOUR BOYFRIEND IS SURE SOME KINDA **MORON**, LANE.

OF COURSE YOU'D SAY THAT, HALL. IN A WORLD FULL OF *%#@, YOU'RE KING %\$#@ OF *@#%\$ MOUNTAIN.

I'LL MAKE SURE HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE, BY THE WAY, AND EVERY LAST DAMN **AWFUL THING** YOU'VE DONE. JUST STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM HIM.



SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT. IN ABOUT A MINUTE, HE'LL BE A **FOOTNOTE** TO HISTORY.

WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!! HE SAID TO GIVE HIM TIME!

SWEETHEART, WE BOTH KNOW I COULD GIVE HIM ALL DAY AND IT WOULDN'T MAKE A LICK O' DIFFERENCE.

IF HISTORY HAS SHOWN US ANYTHING IT'S THAT **FLASHES IN THE PAN** LIKE YOUR TWINKLE-TOED SUPERMAN...



"...CAN'T EVEN SAVE THEMSELVES."

HI.

I'M **KAL-EL** OF KRYPTON.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE HURTING THESE PEOPLE ON PURPOSE, OR IF YOU'RE JUST **HUNGRY**...BUT IT HAS TO--



HHGHK!



AAAAARRRGH!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

STAY BACK!

NOT FROM THE PARASITE, AT LEAST.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, HAWKMAN. TRY TO RELAX.

WHATEVER YOU'RE SEEING ISN'T REAL. YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR.

SUPERMAN? IS THAT YOU?

TELL THEM TO GO AWAY! TELL THEM THEY HAD TO DIE! I DID IT FOR THE GREATER GOOD!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SEEING. I CAN'T READ YOUR MIND.

I'M TRAPPED IN HERE, JUST LIKE YOU, OUR MINDS LINKED BY THE PARASITE'S NERVOUS SYSTEM.

I'M HERE TO LET YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

RIGHT NOW I'M DOING THE SAME FOR ALL TWO MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT PEOPLE IN METROPOLIS.

NOT TO MENTION THE DOGS AND CATS AND PIGEONS AND CARP FROM THE HOBBS RIVER AND--

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE JUST A CHILD! YOU'RE IN SO FAR OVER YOUR HEAD!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS WORLD IS! WHAT IT DOES TO YOU!

SAINTS DON'T SURVIVE HERE, SUPERMAN! THIS WORLD... IT'S GOING TO BREAK YOU!

I'M DOING MY BEST TO ASSURE EVERYONE HERE THAT IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. AND THEY'LL ALL BE FINE.

BUT I HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT MESSAGE FOR YOU, DR. HALL.

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.

SPLORR!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
THE KID DID IT.

--WAS THERE WITH ME--

--POWER OF HIS VOICE--

--KNEW IT WOULD BE OKAY--

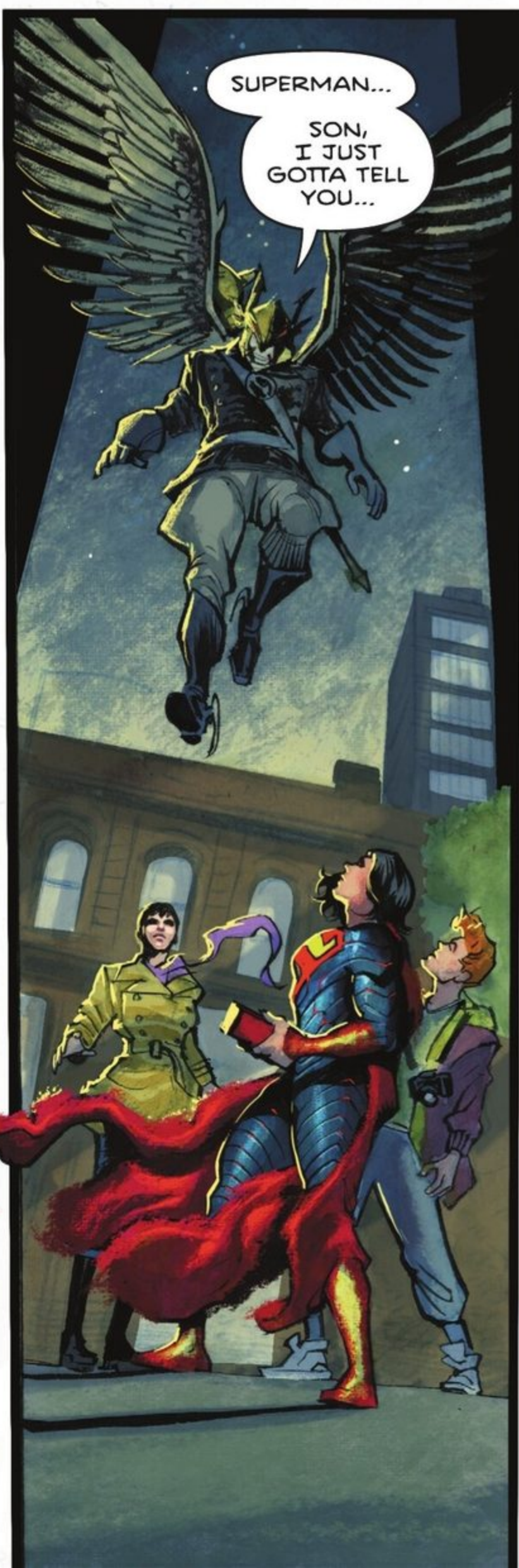
HOW?!

HOW THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT?!

I DON'T KNOW, I...

I'M SUPERMAN.







YOU TELL THEM I DON'T SLEEP AND NOTHING THEY HAVE CAN HURT ME.

TELL THEM MY SENSES STRETCH FOR *MILES*, AND I'M AS STRONG AS THE *SUN*.

AND YOU TELL THEM I'M *COMING*.



YEAH. I REMEMBER.

"THE WAY OF THIS WORLD WAS WRITTEN IN STONE." THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID. LIKE IT WAS SOMETHING *IMMUTABLE*.



AFRAID OF A BIT OF STONE. WHEN ALL THIS TIME...YOU COULD MOVE *MOUNTAINS*.

TELL THE PEOPLE YOU WORK FOR THAT I'M NOT YOU, HALL.



TELL THEM SUPERMAN'S *NOT FOR SALE*.



TALIA. THIS IS HAWKMAN.

WE GOT A *PROBLEM*.

MISSOURI.



PLEASE...

PLEASE
STOP.

YES, I
BELIEVE THAT
SHOULD ABOUT
DO IT.



WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT WILL
BE UP TO
YOU.

I DO
HOPE YOU
WON'T SQUANDER
THE WORK WE'VE
DONE HERE
TODAY.

SEIZE THIS
OPPORTUNITY,
LEX LUTHOR,
I BEG OF
YOU.



MAKE YOURSELF
INTERESTING.



UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN,
THEN.



ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

THE NEVER- ENDING BEGINS

FINALE

ALL TOGETHER NOW

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY
SIEGEL FAMILY.

NEXT
SHAZAM!



ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN

**COLLECTED
EDITION
AVAILABLE IN
MARCH**

VOL. 2: SON OF THE DEMON



**THE MAN OF STEEL
FACES THE
DEMON WITHIN.**

Written by JASON AARON

Art by RAFA SANDOVAL and CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO

Cover art by RAFA SANDOVAL



THE MATRIARCH

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

The Matriarch has arrived in the pages of *Wonder Woman*, and she's here to change everything. Superstar writer Tom King reveals Diana's most ambitious villain yet, a royal force of nature with power to topple gods and heroes alike. As "The Wonder War" begins, this future-born conqueror promises an epic showdown that will redefine the Amazing Amazon's legacy.

What can you tell us about the creation of the Matriarch?

From the beginning my brilliant artist, Daniel Sampere, and I wanted to create a huge *Wonder Woman* villain that would be the focus of our arc. We very cleverly put her origin story on the very first page of the series, and nobody noticed, which was fun! We took 25 issues of story leading up to the launch of this character who is the pivotal villain of the whole series, and her name is the Matriarch.

How do you craft a villain worthy of Wonder Woman's legacy?

It's my chance to do a Lex Luthor. My chance to do a Joker. That's who the Matriarch is. People who are reading *Wonder Woman* today need an experience as big as the people who were reading *Batman* in the '30s or '40s. They deserve huge comics that aren't just looking backward, but looking forward.

What can fans expect as we head toward "The Wonder War"?

There's a lot more to come. We've been building on this. We created this character called the Sovereign, who may or may not be her father. You see her birth and the birth of Trinity around the same time. These two babies who start together becoming the greatest of adversaries in the future will be the driving force behind the comic. I couldn't be more excited for where this is going.

Can you share a bit about the character's design?

Daniel's design is perfect. I wanted her to look like an evil princess, or to have that sort of royalty to her. This look of "I've inherited the world and I can do anything."



Art by Jorge Fornés

What you started to see in issue #25, the big launch of this character, is she exists in the future. I was sort of inspired by the comics of my youth, where the great villains came from the future. In the future, she has left Themyscira, has conquered Earth, and has killed the Justice League. When you see each of their deaths, their last words to the Matriarch before they succumb to her total power are "Wonder Woman," who's the last hope against this villain.



Art by Daniel Sampere



Art by Daniel Sampere

DON'T MISS THE EPIC START OF "THE WONDER WAR" IN *WONDER WOMAN* #31, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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